Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-2201. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address **http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh** contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
July 2004

During July, precipitation was below average on the Lake Superior and Michigan-Huron, while the Erie and Ontario basins received above average precipitation. For the last 12 months, precipitation was near average on the Lake Superior basin and above average on the remainder of the Great Lakes basin. In July, the net supply of water was below average to Lake Superior, and above average to the remaining lakes . The table below lists July precipitation and water supply information for each of the Great Lakes basins.

In comparison with their long-term (1918-2003) averages, the July monthly mean levels of Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair were 5, 9, and 2 inches, respectively, below average. Lake Erie was 1 inch and Lake Ontario 4 inches above average. Boaters should be aware of hazards to navigation due to current conditions.

PRECIPITATION (inches)

BASIN	July				12-Month Comparison			
	2004	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 Months	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	2.75	3.30	-0.55	83	30.27	30.52	-0.25	99
Michigan-Huron	2.51	3.02	-0.51	83	36.27	32.17	4.10	113
Erie	3.56	3.32	0.24	107	39.21	35.04	4.17	112
Ontario	6.20	3.12	3.08	199	40.45	35.35	5.10	114
Great Lakes	3.15	3.14	0.01	100	35.53	32.42	3.11	110

LAKE	July WATER SUPPLIES[2] (cfs)		July OUTFLOW[3] (cfs)	
	2004[1]	Average (1900-1989)	2004[1]	Average[5] (1900-1999)
Superior	108,000	130,000	80,000	81,000
Michigan-Huron	148,000	127,000	177,000[4]	196,000
Erie	12,000	4,000	212,000[4]	211,000
Ontario	41,000	24,000	267,000	259,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.
[1] Estimated.
[2] Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.
[3] Does not include diversions.
[4] Reflects effects of ice/weed retardation in connecting channels.
[5] Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers Average Outflows based on period of record 1900-1989 & 1900-2003, respectively.